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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The Civil Supplies Department has entered into a contract with the Chittavalasa and Nellimarla Jute Mills, Vizagapatam, who had undertaken to supply 9,200 bales of new gunnies of 37 inches by 24 inches size, each bale containing 400 gunnies. The prices of these gunnies are as follows :—

Quantity.		Price.
4,600 bales	..	**Rs. 74–15–2 per 100 gunnies (February—March delivery).**
4,600 bales	..	**Rs. 73–5–8 per 100 gunnies (April—May delivery).**

In order to supplement the stocks of new gunnies the Government sanctioned a scheme for the recovery of second-hand gunnies which might be used again in the distribution of foodgrains. Under this scheme the Civil Supplies Department recovered from the retailers and major establishments in Madras City about 27,000 used gunnies. This scheme has since been wound up.

" (*c*) Tenders for the supply of gunnies have not been called for by the Civil Supplies Department so far. As regards the contract for the purchase of new gunnies referred to in the answer to clause (*b*) the Civil Supplies Department entered into a direct contract with the mills in question as they were the biggest producers of gunnies in the Province and as the terms offered by them were reasonable.

" (*d*) The Civil Supplies Department did not place any order with any firm in Vizagapatam for the supply of gunnies other than the contract mentioned in the answer to clause (*b*).

" (*e*) The answer to this clause has already been furnished in the reply to clause (*c*)."

Number of people jailed for prohibition offences.

* 101 *Q.*—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of people jailed for prohibition offences ; and

(*b*) their daily avocations and trades and the percentage of ryots and agricultural labourers among them?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The information required by the hon. Member is laid on the table of the House."

Housing Societies.

* 102 *Q.*—SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Housing Societies have been established;

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a Printed as Appendix III on page 563 infra.

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(*b*) the names of the districts in which such societies were established;

(*c*) how many houses have been built;

(*d*) if not, what materials, such as brick, cement, etc., have at least been procured;

(*e*) whether estimates at least have been made; and

(*f*) what steps have been taken or are being contemplated to secure such materials?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (*a*) The following five Co-operative Housing Societies have been newly organized, viz., (1) Madras Co-operative House Construction Society, Ltd., (2) Katpadi Co-operative Township, (3) Tanjore Co-operative House Construction Society, (4) Palamcottah Co-operative House Construction Society, and (5) Trichinopoly Co-operative House Construction Society.

" (*b*) Madras, North Arcot, Tanjore, Tinnevelly and Trichinopoly districts.

" (*c*) No houses have been built so far.

" (*d*) Materials have not yet been purchased; but arrangements have been made to procure them.

" (*e*) Yes.

" (*f*) 7,000 tons of timber have already been ordered to be reserved for co-operative housing schemes from the Madras Government forests. The question of obtaining teak from Burma is also under consideration. As regards iron and steel, the Government of India were asked for an estimated annual requirement of 8,000 tons for housing purposes but they have expressed their inability to supply this quota during the current year in view of the fall in production. They have therefore been requested to make a special allotment, of 4,000 tons from out of the reserve at their disposal for Development Schemes sponsered by Governments. Wherever possible suitable military surplus stores are also reserved for these schemes. Pending the allotment of a special quota by the Government of India, 20 per cent of the district quota of iron and steel allotted from the provincial quota after reserving the requirements needed for agriculture has been earmarked for distribution to co-operative housing societies. The Cement Marketing Association of India are supplying cement on a priority basis to co-operative house-building societies on the recommendation of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" How much money has been collected by these societies, Sir, by way of share capital? I mean by the five societies."

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I shall ask for notice, Sir."

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SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" May I inform the Government that it is not advisable to go on collecting money and keep it in the safe without being made use of."

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I protest against this suggestion, Sir."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Why protest about it? There is no cement, no brick, nor any other material. The money can be used after these are gathered."

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I would say Sir, that the implication in the question is absolutely unwarranted. So far as Madras is concerned, we have progressed to a very great extent and we have acquired a site of 136 acres. We have also arranged for indenting the materials from the military and various other sources. An Engineer has been appointed, plans have been made and schemes have been worked out and allotments are being made. We hope to have the materials collected by the end of December and the houses constructed by the end of next year. Therefore, Sir, the implication of the hon. Member in his question is absolutely unwarranted."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" What is the price that was paid for these 136 acres that were secured by the Government?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" Sir, it works at somewhere about Rs. 12,000 an acre whereas a mile away in Mylapore they are making Rs. 60,000 an acre."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, for what classes of persons these houses are going to be built? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" For the middle classes and the lower middle classes."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know whether under the schemes of those Housing Co-operative Societies there are any plans for the development of houses for industrial workers? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I am sorry to say that these schemes do not cover houses for industrial workers. As I have already said we are awaiting the report of the Housing Committee of which the hon. Member Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao is a very efficient member."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" In view of the answer already given by the Hon. Minister that the major includes the minor and in view of the fact that houses are being constructed for the higher classes and the middle classes, why not include also the working classes? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" The position so far as the co-operative societies are concerned is that the entire cost of the scheme should be borne by the parties themselves. Sir, in the case of industrial labour Government must subsidize to a certain extent and we are awaiting the Housing Committee's report."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" What happened to the application made by the Bellary Housing Committee for the establishment of these housing societies? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I think the hon. Member and myself went round Bellary and we thought Bellary is in a very happy position so far as housing is concerned. It is advantageously situated. Therefore, the scheme will be taken up very quickly and something will be done there."

Instructions from Central Road Traffic Board to the Chingleput District Traffic Board to omit certain items in the agenda.

* 103 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Road Traffic Board month after month issue instructions to the Chingleput District Traffic Board just when it begins its sittings to postpone some of the items in the agenda;

(b) whether such procedure does not interfere with the normal work of the Board;

(c) whether it is a fact that this continued adjournment greatly inconveniences the concerned applicants for routes and causes loss to them;

(d) whether it is the policy of the Government to take into consideration the interest of the small bus owners in the district as much as that of the Madras City fleet owners;

(e) whether the Government propose to give consideration to the interests of the travelling public more than that of the fleet owners; and

(f) whether the Government propose to issue orders to permit the small bus owners who have applied for routes and who have got their buses ready, to run on the roads till nationalization of transport by Government is taken up on those routes?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (a) It is not correct to say that the Central Road Traffic Board issues month after month instructions to the Road Traffic Board, Chingleput, to postpone consideration of some of the items of business on the agenda of the latter. In July and August 1947 consideration by the Road Traffic Board, Chingleput, of subjects relating to the grant of permits for new routes touching Madras was stayed by the Central Road Traffic Board as the question of reservation of these routes for operators in the Madras City, who would be thrown out of business on account of the nationalization scheme, was then under consideration.

" (b) The answer is in the negative. Compliance with the directions of the Central Road Traffic Board should be taken as part of the normal work of the Board.